



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Post Office Box 649  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

August 5, 1999

## Memorandum

To: Area Director, BIA, Albuquerque, NM  
ATTN: Allen Sedik  
State Director, BLM, Santa Fe, NM  
ATTN: Mark Blakeslee (930)  
Regional Director, BR, Billings, MT  
ATTN: Roxanne Peterson  
Regional Director (ES), FWS, Albuquerque, NM  
ATTN: Steve Robertson, Karen Cathey  
Regional Director, NPS, Denver, CO  
ATTN: Michael Schene  
District Chief, USGS/WRD, Albuquerque, NM  
Regional Solicitor, DOI, Albuquerque, NM

From: Regional Environmental Officer

Subject: Molycorp Molydenum Mine (Unocal), Questa, Taos County, New Mexico

This Office was recently made aware by the New Mexico Natural Resource Trustee, Dr. Bill Turner, that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is pursuing the development of an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for the cleanup of the subject site which has allegedly released hazardous substances into the environment, including the Red River. Successful development and implementation of this AOC may preclude the site from being listed by the Environmental Protection Agency on the National Priorities List.

The reason Dr. Turner contacted this Office was to invite the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to participate in the development and implementation of this AOC in order that DOI natural resource concerns can be more effectively addressed by the planned site remediation and that DOI might be involved in negotiations with the Potentially Responsible Parties to address natural resource restoration, as those opportunities present themselves, or settlement of a natural resource damages claim. We presume this process will proceed in much the same way as it would under the Superfund planning process managed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Turner has indicated to us that a meeting with the PRPs is being planned for sometime early September 1999 in order to begin the process of negotiating the AOC with Unocal and to introduce natural resource trustee interests into that process. In order that we might aid the State in planning this meeting, please respond to this memorandum with an indication of your Bureau's interest in participating in this meeting and subsequent negotiations and indicate a contact person to whom we can forward meeting information when we receive it. If we do not hear from you by **August 27, 1999**, we will assume that you have no further interest in participating in activities at this site. If you need further information, feel free to contact Dr. Steve Spencer or myself at (505) 766-3565.

  
Glenn B. Sekavec

cc: Director, DOI/OEPC, Washington, DC  
Field Office Manager, BLM, Taos, NM  
Area Projects Manager, BR, Albuquerque, NM  
Field Supervisor (ES), FWS, Albuquerque, NM  
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✓ Dan Wall, FWS (c/o EPA Region 6), Dallas, TX  
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